

Exit 122 Reconstruction Finally Approved by New York State Comptroller, NYSDOT Estimates 1,800 Jobs Will Be Created

Town of Wallkill, NY -- Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today lauded the approval and final sign-off on the commencement of the long-awaited reconstruction of Exit 122 on Route 17/Future I-86 in the Town of Wallkill, New York. Hinchey wrote to the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) earlier this year advocating strongly for the use of a Project Labor Agreement to ensure the significant construction project utilized local workers and area companies. Hinchey had also contacted the State Comptroller's office to move forward the project's approval, citing the economic impacts on the Hudson Valley region from the \$75 million project, which estimates indicate will create 1,800 direct and indirect jobs in the area, according to NYSDOT.

"The use of a Project Labor Agreement will ensure that the upgrade of Exit 122 in Orange County will be done using area construction companies and local workers from the surrounding communities. It will also help to ensure that this vitally important highway upgrade will be completed in a quality, timely and cost-efficient manner," said Hinchey. "I'm pleased that the Comptroller's office has given the final approval to this long-pending contract and that the State Department of Transportation can now allow construction to proceed."

In 1993, as a freshman member of Congress, Hinchey, along with the late U.S. Senator Patrick Moynihan, introduced legislation to convert the state road into an interstate highway. In 1998, a Hinchey authored provision in the Transportation Equity Act for the 21 Century (TEA-21) was passed, and Interstate 86 became a part of High Priority Corridor 36, which added Route 17 to the future interstate system. This allowed New York State to begin the conversion of Route 17 to Interstate 86.